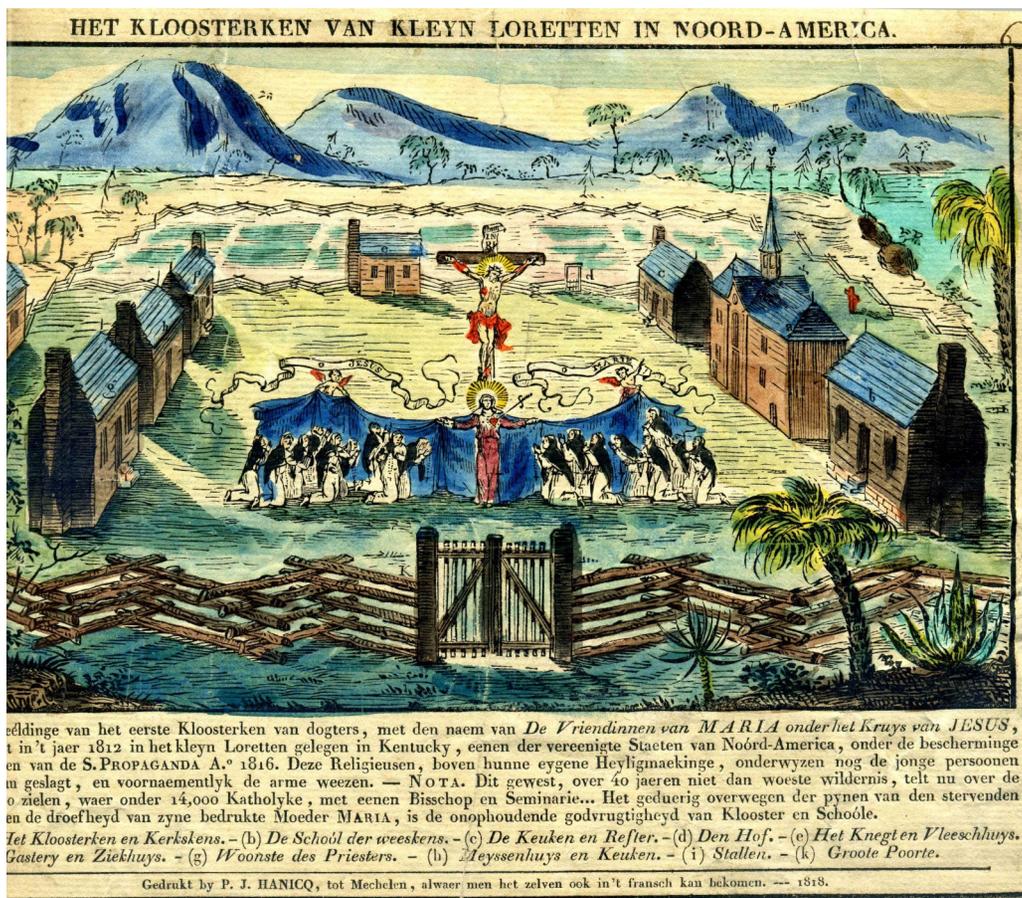


A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



MARION COUNTY: BIRTHPLACE OF CATHOLICISM IN KENTUCKY

Holy Cross, established in 1785 by Catholic families from Maryland, was the first Catholic church west of the Allegheny Mountains. The families had pledged to migrate together and settle in the same area – in part because doing so would give them a better chance of having a priest and establishing a church. The present building dates to 1823, when Father Charles Nerinckx was pastor. Nerinckx also founded the American congregation of the Sisters of Loretto in Marion County.

Father Charles Nerinckx is said to have designed this painting to raise money for the Sisterhood of Loretto. It dates to 1818. Kentucky Historical Society, Martin F. Schmidt Collection, 2004.41.481.



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